

**PAPER FEEDER, AND IMAGE FORMING DEVICE HAVING IT**

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Inventor: SHIOBARA YUKIO; TAKIFUJI KOJI; SUZUKI HIROSHI

Applicant: BROTHER IND LTD

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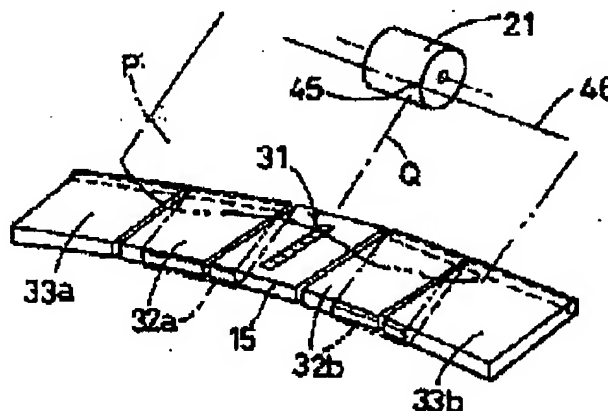
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**Abstract of JP2003285948**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To prevent incomplete separation, because, when a separation tilting surface in a paper feeder is flat in the width direction of a sheet P, the lower end edge of a proceeding sheet P near both side ends previously abuts on the corresponding separation tilting surface, a central part of the sheet P in the width direction is affected by the abutting to further bend and deform, and the tip edge (lower end edge) of the sheet P of the central part easily separates from a separating means in a corresponding part.

**SOLUTION:** A fixing/separating plate 15 allowing infestation to the upper surface of a long separating means 31 in the feeding direction of the sheet P is disposed in the central part of the sheet P in the width direction on the lower end side of a placing plate 12. First movable separating plates 32a and 32b and second movable separating plates 33a and 33b tiltable to the lower part than the fixing/separating plate 15 and energized upward are disposed on both right and left sides of the fixing/separating plate 15. When the first and second movable separating plates 32a-33b are pressed by the lower end edge of the fed means, they uniquely tilt downward to release a pressing force.

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